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Elijah Muhammad

Elijah Muhammad, born Elijah Robert Poole, was a pivotal figure in American history, particularly in the context of the civil rights movement and the development of Black nationalism. He led the Nation of Islam (NOI) from 1934 until his death in 1975, transforming it into a significant religious and political force.

Muhammad's teachings emphasized Black self-sufficiency, economic independence, and racial pride. He advocated for the establishment of a separate nation for Black Americans and promoted

a version of Islam that combined traditional Islamic beliefs with Black nationalist ideas. His rhetoric often included strong anti-white sentiments, which he later moderated to focus more on self-help and community development.

Under his leadership, the NOI grew significantly, attracting prominent figures such as Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, and Louis Farrakhan. Muhammad's influence extended beyond the religious sphere, impacting the broader civil rights movement by encouraging African Americans to embrace self-reliance and self-improvement.

Elijah Muhammad's legacy is complex and multifaceted. He is remembered both for his contributions to the empowerment of African Americans and for his controversial views on race and segregation. His impact on American society and the civil rights movement remains a subject of significant historical interest and debate.